Dear Walter, 11/8/77

Odd that today I have a mailing on 22 Fires when for a week I've been hoping to find a moment to write you.

Mornings I walk out for the mail. On the qay back to the house I his and hers it. By the time I'm in the house I can lay Lil's aside and get to mine. My day rotates around the mail. I dare not let it accumulate. Today's held important matters. So until about bedtime I was not able to read the cover on Jerry's novel.

Having read it I think it is appropriate to tell you the beautiful story I'd been wanting to find time to tell.

It is about Lida and Harry. He calls her Selva and she calls him Eddy.

Lida has come to regard Lil as a sort of second mother. She visits from time to time and often does very helpful things, especially those that she, a very strong perosn, has no toruble with ~~xxx~~ that Lil can't do. So, a while back, when I had to get a more sensitive tuner, anticipating broadcasts of the House assassins committee, I gave her a close to new one. Also 8-track tape and record player. Good set. The speakers had not been unwrapped.

I'm more limited than before. So she had Harry come this past weekend and saw me a good supply of firewood. He has a pickup truck. They loaded it from accross the pond and that load is already on the porch. Prepared for bad weather and the current out. When I say "they" I mean Lida helped with it.

It is so good to have such friends when one has need! ...

From Bantam's record and my experiences I should have known that unless Jerry's book is a bad book Jaffe and Temkin would not let Bantam touch it. On the simple basis that Bantam is publishing it I can be confident it stinks.

Having read the cover blurbing I am without doubt and sad with great disappointment.

My sadness has nothing to do with what the bookk can do. Bantam and Jerry have a bomb. It is that for money, which I'm sure he does not need that much, Jerry would whore.

I gues Boe, whoever he is, came up with the idea. Otherwise Jerry didn't needhim. Where did he get the idea? From Priscilla McMillan Johnson, whose book can't make enough for Harpers to get their money back. I suppose Temkin will now grab it, too. Like he did Gerold Frank's lousy job on the King assassination.

The more I see of what people can bring themselves to do for money the less I regret it has been short here for so many years.

In this case I'll be surprised if the drek makes any money.

Whatever mailing list this comes from is several years out of date. That long ago we renumbered the routes. Because you make the same mistake should I guess?

With a 22 in the title and 12/1 only 8 days later why did they make pub date other thatx the anniversary? Certainly not fear of being accused of commercialization of a great tragedy.

I sorrow for Jerry. But I hope you and Agnes are well and happy.

best,